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Committee of 100 Mourns the Passing of Rep. Robert Matsui

The Committee of 100, a national non-profit Chinese American organization, is saddened by the passing of Representative Robert Matsui, a great friend and an outstanding representative of all his constituents in the 5th Congressional District of California and of Asian Americans across the nation. Rep. Matsui proudly served for 26 years in Congress, where he rose to national prominence as the third ranking Democratic member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and a prominent Asian American in the leadership of the Congress, including chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee - the national party committee responsible for electing Democrats to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Committee of 100 Chairman Bob Lee recalled Rep. Matsui by saying, "Bob was a great inspiration to me. Through his personal life and his political career, he bravely represented the best of the Asian American community. We will miss him deeply."

Former Committee of 100 Chairman and Governor Henry Tang remarked: "Bob was one of the earliest supporters of the Committee of 100 from [Capitol] Hill. We shall always be grateful to him for his humanitarian and pioneering work on behalf of all Americans, especially those Americans of Asian ancestry."

Nelson Dong, a Committee of 100 director and former constituent of Rep. Matsui, said: "Bob helped lead the entire nation with intelligence, compassion and integrity. He was always a role model to me through his selfless dedication to public service and his consistent advocacy of justice and equality on behalf of Asian Americans."

Lee, Tang and Dong all recalled the stirring speech given by Rep. Matsui during the Committee of 100 annual conference in Washington, D.C. in April, 2001. Lee said, "On that day, Bob was truly the voice of conscience, speaking out for all Asian Americans, and we will never forget the noble vision he shared with us."

The Matsui family and friends are establishing a charitable fund in memory of the Congressman and ask that gifts be sent to The Matsui Foundation for Public Service, P.O. Box 1347, Sacramento, CA 95812 (<http://www.mfps.org>).

Founded in 1989 by prominent Chinese Americans, the Committee of 100 is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization composed of Chinese American leaders in a broad range of professions. With their knowledge and experience, they have committed to a dual mission: (1) encouraging stronger relations between the U.S. and Greater China and (2) encouraging the full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of American life. For more information, please visit www.committee100.org.